

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 EUR-12 DPW-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

FDRE-00 AID-05 IO-10 /084 W  
----- 015184

O 151207Z AQR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2781

INFO CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NKP TH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, TH, CB

SUBJ: EVACUATION OF AMCITS FROM PHNOM PENH

REF: A)STATE 85376; B) BANGKOK 6367

1. REFTEL A SEEKS FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AMCIT EVACUATION FROM PHNOM PENH REPORTED REFTEL B.
2. CBS BUREAU SAIGON, ACTING AS COORDINATOR FOR US NETWORKS CONCERNED ABOUT US NEWSMEN REMAINING IN PHNOM PENH, TOLD EMB-SSY SAIGON PRESS ATTACHE A CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES CHARTER PLANE CIRCLE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL AT 0400 GMT APRIL 15 AND ESTABLISHED RADIO CONTACT WITH SYDNEY SCHAMBERG, NYT REPORTER.
3. SCHANBERG REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED SITUATION AS "CRITICAL FOR GKR." HE SAID ABOUT 50 PERSONS WANT ASSISTANCE TO GET OUT. HE DESCRIBED THEM AS AMCITS, TCN'S AND KHMER WHO WORKED WITH US AGENCIES. FYI: DICK BLYSTONE, AP BANGKOK, SAID THE FIGURE 50 INCLUDES ABOUT SIX AMERICANS, 25-30 TCN'S WHO WORKED FOR SOUTH-CONFIDENTIAL

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EST ASIA TRANSPORT, ONE BRITISH, TWO FRENCH, ONE GERMAN AND THREE SWEDE.

4. SCHANBERG TOLD CIRCLING AIRCRAFT THAT IT WAS "IMPOSSIBLE" FOR FIXED-WING PLANES TO LAND HE SAID FRENCH EMBASSY PHNM PENH WAS SEEKING SIHANOUK'S PERMISSION DECLARE AREA AROUND EMBASSY "SAFE." THAT EMBASSY OFFERED OPEN AREA NEXT TO IT AS HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE, SCHANBERG SAID.

5. SCHANBERG REPORTED "NUMBER" OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PERSONNEL AND AT LEAST ONE UNREP SEEKING HAVE HOTEL LE PHNOM DECLARED "INTERNATIONAL ZONE." SCHANBERG SAID CITY CALM AND CURFEW IN EFFECT AT TIME HE IN CONTACT WITH CIRCLING PLANE.

6. IN CONVERSATION WE HAD WITH BLYSTONE, HE SUGGESTED CBS BUREAU SAIGON REMAIN COORDINATING SITE FOR THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT FATE OF US NEWSMEN STILL IN PHNOM PENH AND THAT ANY REQUESTS FOR USG HELP

COME FROM CBS BUREAU SAIGON.

7. BLYSTONE SAID HE AND OTHER NEWSMEN HERE READY HELP ANY WAY CBS BUREAU SAIGON DEEMS NECESSARY.

8. BLYSTONE AND NYT'S IVE LELYVELD, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT BLYSTONE'S REQUEST, SUGGESTED FOUR OPTIONS FOR EXTRACTING REMAINING AMCITS. MOST OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS SEEM IMPRACTICAL. ONE EXAMPLE: US LEND NEWSMEN HERE A HUEY AND THEY WILL GO IN TO PHNOM PENH WITH FRANK MARIANO (ABC-TV) AS PILOT AND BLYSTONE AS NAVIGATOR OTHER: 1) MARINES GO IN ON EAGLE PULL 11; 2) US HELP SECURE PERMISSION FOR BIRD AUR# TO BRING TWO BELL JET RANGERS FROM LAOS AND FLY OUT OF UTAPAO TO PHNOM PENH; 3) CREWMEN HERE CONTRACT FOR BANGKOK-BASED CHARTER HELICOPTER WITH EMBASSY GETTING THAI CLEARANCES FOR ONE

OR MMRE MISSIONS TO PHNOM PENH.

9. IN OUR VIEW, EMBASSY'S CHANCES OF SUCCESSFUL EXTRACTION REMOTE EXCEPT BY USING MILITARY FORCE WITH ALL THE IMPONDERABLES THAT ENTAILS. MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMERGENCY EVACUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** AEMR, CASC, CB, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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